

NAME: Mirela Kulovac

CLIENT: Park Teen Center

NAME LIKE TO BE CALLED: Mirela

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HOMETOWN: Sarajevo, Bosnia

TRANS. DATE: 4-5-07

HOW LONG DID YOU LIVE THERE FOR?

Seven years. (SEVEN YEARS?)

SO HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN AMERICA?

Five years.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE SARAJEVO IS LOCATED AT, IN BOSNIA? (PAUSE) DO YOU KNOW... IT'S THE CAPITOL CITY THROUGH RIGHT?

Yeah.

HOW BIG IS SARAJEVO?

I don't know. I was 7 years old. I just, yeah.

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT SARAJEVO?

(inaud) my school was and then where candy shop (smile) was. I go there every day. I remember of course family, and that's it.

WHAT FAMILY DO YOU HAVE THERE?

Um, my grandparents and cousins. And aunts and uncles.

WHAT LANGUAGE IS SPOKEN THERE?

Bosnian.

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR HOUSE?

It was big. Very big. I had four bedrooms, three bathrooms.

WAS IT LOCATED IN TOWN?

Yes.(?)

WHAT WAS YOUR BEDROOM LIKE?

It had bed in it. (smile) It had toys in it. Mostly Barbies. And it had my (inaud) in it.

MOST OF YOUR TOYS WERE BARBIES?

Um hum. (yes)

BARBIE DOLLS?

Um hum. (yes) (inaud). And babies.

LITTLE BABY DOLLS?

Um hum. (yes) (UM) When I was young, I used to play with those stuff.

WOW, I GUESS I JUST DIDN'T THINK ABOUT BARBIES BECAUSE I FIND BARBIES TO BE MAINLY AMERICAN. BUT I GUESS THEY ARE PRETTY MUCH EVERYWHERE, AREN'T THEY? UM HUM, I THINK SO. WHAT WAS YOUR YARD LIKE? DID YOU HAVE A YARD?

Um hum. (yes) But (inaud phrase) they had place that they had a playground. They had trees. They had grass. (smile)

HOW MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS DO YOU HAVE?

I have one brother.

OLDER OR YOUNGER?

Younger.

HOW MANY COUSINS DO YOU HAVE?

Here? (OH NO – INAUD) A lot, a lot, a lot, a lot. (A LOT) A lot.

DID THEY COME OVER A LOT? OR DID YOU GO OVER THERE?

No, I'm gonna go over there this summer.

WHEN YOU WERE THERE, DID THEY COME AND VISIT A LOT?

No, they can't come. They're busy pretty much.

YEAH. SO YOU DIDN'T SEE THEM A WHOLE LOT?

For five years, except my grandma. Came (inaud) my grandma. (pause) My grandma and (inaud) were here.

TO VISIT?

Um hum. (yes)

DID THEY LIKE IT?

Um hum. (yes)

DO YOU ENJOY HAVING THEM OVER HERE?

Um hum. (yes)

WHEN YOUR FAMILY TALKS ABOUT LIVING IN BOSNIA, WHAT DO THEY TELL YA? WHAT DO THEY TELL YA ABOUT YOUR HOUSE?

Nothing. They don't talk about my house.

WHAT DO THEY TELL YOU ABOUT BOSNIA? (pause) WHEN THEY TELL STORIES ARE THEY MAINLY POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE?

Positive.

MAINLY POSITIVE? LIKE WHAT WOULD AN EXAMPLE OF A POSITIVE STORY BE?)

Actually it's fun.

WHAT DO THEY TELL YOU IS FUN ABOUT BOSNIA?

I don't know. They, they really don't talk about it a lot because I'm usually doing some other stuff.

DO YOU ASK ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT BOSNIA?

I just ask them when are we going. Cause this summer I'm going by myself for the first month with my cousin. And then they're gonna come over here.

ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT THAT?

Um hum. (yes)

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BOSNIA? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO?

To see my cousins, and my candy store.

AND YOUR CANDY STORE.

Where I always used to go.

WHEN PEOPLE HERE ASK YOU ABOUT BOSNIA, WHAT....

In school?

YEAH, WHAT DO YOU TELL THEM ABOUT BOSNIA?

They don't really ask me.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BOSNIA? POSITIVE? NEGATIVE?

(pause) Good.

YOU FEEL GOOD ABOUT BOSNIA. WHY?

Um, cause I get to see my cousins.

CAUSE FAMILY LIVES THERE.

Yeah. And friends.

DO YOU STILL STAY IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLE IN BOSNIA? FRIENDS?

Um, yeah.

OTHER THAN FAMILY?

Yeah. (YEAH)

HOW DO YOU STAY IN TOUCH WITH THEM?

We call. We call and like we mail each other.

EMAIL?

No.

LETTERS?

Yeah. And sometimes we email.

WHAT DO YOU GUYS TALK ABOUT? BOYS?

No. We're friends. We just talk about like how is it over here and how is it over there. With my cousins, we just talk about how it's like, how is... It's same thing pretty much.

WHAT DO THEY SAY WHEN YOU SAY "HOW IS IT OVER THERE"? WHAT DO THEY TELL YOU ABOUT IT?

Well it's the same when I was there except it's better(?).

THEY SAY THAT IT'S BETTER.

Yeah. And the reason I really, really wanta go over there, (inaud).

SHOPPING!

I just like shopping a lot.

IS THERE GOOD SHOPPING OVER THERE?

That's what they told me. I don't know. My friends went there.

THEY SAID THERE WAS GOOD SHOPPING.

There is. (smile) It's like pretty much the same as here, as (inaud).

WHY DID YOUR, WHY DID YOUR PARENTS TELL YOU THAT YOU MOVED HERE?

Pretty much for like school. Cause the last grade, in when (inaud) the last grade is 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

THE LAST GRADE IS 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE?

Then you're in college. That's a good thing. And I was like going, yeah...

SO HIGH SCHOOL HERE?

Yeah.

EIGHTH GRADE.

Um hum. (yes) And then you have college.

SO WHY, WHY DID THEY WANTA COME HERE?

Cause there was longer (pause) whatever you call it...

GRADES

Yes.

DO THEY, DO THEY TELL YOU THAT THE EDUCATION IS BETTER HERE  
BECAUSE OF THAT?

Yeah.

YEAH. CAUSE YOU HAVE MORE.

Um hum. (yes)

HOW DID YOUR FAMILY DECIDE TO COME TO AMERICA? (pause) CAUSE YOU  
WERE IN BOSNIA, RIGHT? AND YOU COULD HAVE MOVED TO OTHER  
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. WHY DID THEY DECIDE AMERICA?

(inaud) education I guess. And like you can meet more people here.

THEY THOUGHT AMERICA (INAUD) TO COME HERE.

Yeah.

DO YOU REMEMBER PREPARING TO LEAVE, WHEN YOU WERE IN BOSNIA? DO  
YOU REMEMBER GETTING READY TO...

Yeah. First like my cousins came over and helped us pack and stuff. And the next day  
we had a big party. And then we left, the party was before and we left around 2 or 3.

WAS IT FUN?

Yeah. (LOTS OF FUN) Yeah, over there.

WERE YOU EXCITED TO COME?

Um, yeah.

WHAT DID YOU KNOW ABOUT AMERICA? WHAT DID YOUR PARENTS TELL YOU  
ABOUT AMERICA THEN?

Well, it was good I guess. And, um, when I went to school (smile) they were like, like

teach over there in American language, but, you know, how British people talk or whatever. (YEAH) Yeah, so it's like that. But I just knew how to count to 11.

THAT'S ALL YOU KNEW IN ENGLISH BEFORE YOU CAME HERE?

Yeah, yeah. (smile)

WHAT WAS SCHOOL LIKE IN BOSNIA?

Ah, like here.

THE DAYS WERE JUST AS LONG?

Yeah.

HOW WOULD THE TEACHERS DISCIPLINE YOU THERE?

They're nice. It's the same way except in over there they're nicer than (inaud).

UM, HOW FAR AWAY WAS SCHOOL?

Um, not really. Just five minutes to walk there. Always walking with one of my friends. We just, they come over to my house and then I get ready, they wake me up cause like, yeah, and then I, we get ready and we walk to school. And then me and my cousin, we were walking to school one day and then a dog started chasing us. (smile) It was fun. (smile)

YOU GOT (INAUD). DID YOU MAKE IT TO SCHOOL? NOBODY GOT BIT? THAT'S GOOD. WHAT KIND OF DOG WAS IT?

(inaud) (OH, WASN'T A BIG DOG)

No. If it was a big dog I'd rather just stay there and get eaten(?) if he could catch us anyway. (LAUGH)

HOW MANY KIDS WERE IN YOUR CLASS?

20 or 24.

SO KINDA LIKE HERE AS WELL.

Um hum. (yes)

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS?

Uh, art.

WHY?

Art.

WHY?

Oh, because I start to draw that's all I liked really at school.

IS ART CLASS? WHAT WAS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE CLASS?

Um, hum, it was math, math. It's cause it's harder here. I mean it's harder there. Yeah, it's harder there.

IT'S HARDER OVER THERE THAN HERE?

Kinda. Cause they, they have this one thing, you have to like subtract the other way. It's like if it's a, hum, let's see... I really don't (inaud). There's only one thing I did different over there. And then like for grades, they wouldn't give 100. They would like give from from zero to five. And five, I just got all fives for the whole year and one three. (inaud)

YOU GOT THE THREE IN MATH?

Yeah. That wasn't(?) my final grade.

YOU JUST GOT IT ONE TIME.

Yeah, at the beginning.

HOW IS SCHOOL DIFFERENT HERE? WHEN YOU CAME HERE, HOW WAS IT DIFFERENT?

(pause) Um, it's like bigger.

THE SCHOOLS ARE?

Yeah. Kind of. Yeah, kinda.

HOW ELSE IS IT DIFFERENT?

Um, nothing different really.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE BEING IN ELL?

Where?



WHEN YOU FIRST CAME OVER HERE?

Oh. Um,...

LEARNING ENGLISH

It was hard.

WAS IT?

I (inaud) have the hang of it.

HOW LONG WERE, HOW LONG DID IT TAKE BEFORE, BEFORE YOU REALLY STARTED TO LEARN IT?

A semester. (laugh)

YEAH? SO YOU PICKED IT UP QUICK? BUT IT WAS HARD? DID YOUR TEACHERS SPEAK ANY, UH, BOSNIAN TO YOU?

No. But they were, um, like tutors, one in English and then, yeah, and my cousins taught me, and some kids in my class.

DID YOUR COUSINS MOVE HERE BEFORE YOU DID?

Yeah.

SO THEY KNEW ENGLISH?

Um hum. (yes)

SO THEY COULD KINDA TRANSLATE FOR YA?

Um hum. (yes)

THAT'S NICE OF EM.

Um hum. (yes)

DID THAT HELP YOU LEARN ENGLISH A LITTLE QUICKER?

Um hum. (yes)

HOW DID YOU FEEL OTHER KIDS TREATED YOU, BECAUSE YOU WERE IN ELL?

They were nice.

WAS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU HAD TO CHANGE WHEN YOU CAME OVER HERE?

No. Like...

LIKE CLOTHING OR BEHAVIOR OR...

No, pretty much same...

MUSIC...

(inaud)

MUSIC IS DIFFERENT?

Different language.

IS IT THE SAME MUSIC, JUST WITH DIFFERENT LANGUAGES?

Yeah, pretty much.

DO THEY HAVE THE SAME ARTISTS, THE SAME SINGERS, BUT THEY JUST TRANSLATE IT (INAUD) OR NO... (pause) BUT THE BOSNIAN HAS THE SAME TYPE OF MUSIC.

Yeah, pretty much.

WHAT WERE SOME HOLIDAYS THAT WERE CELEBRATIONS THAT YOU HAD IN BOSNIA?

They were the same here except we don't have Halloween. And I like Halloween a lot. (smile)

YOU LIKE GETTING ALL THE CANDY?

Yeah.

THE COSTUMES.

Yeah.

WHAT WERE YOU FOR HALLOWEEN THIS YEAR?

I was a vampire with black lipstick. Everything black.

DID YOU HAVE, UH, BLOOD PAINTED ON YOU ANYWHERE?

Yeah. Yeah, right here.

ON THE CORNERS OF YOUR MOUTH.

Yeah.

WHAT CELEBRATIONS DID YOU HAVE OVER THERE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE HERE?

I don't know. (inaud) the same every year.

HOW DO YOU, UH, IS IT, DO YOU DO ANYTHING SPECIAL OR ANYTHING DIFFERENT FOR YOUR CELEBRATIONS? LIKE...

Nothing different. Birthdays are the same. Holidays, all holidays are pretty much the same.

DO YOU HAVE THANKSGIVING THERE?

Uh, I don't know. I don't know. I'm not an expert. (inaud)

HAVE YOU, DO YOUR PARENTS SPEAK ENGLISH?

Um, yeah. My dad knows more than my mom. Cause when he came here, he went to college or whatever. So, yeah. And he finished it and he was three(?) (inaud). (laugh)  
So yeah.

SO YOUR DAD KNOWS.

My mom went, my mom went half, but she had also early to work so (inaud). (phone ringing)

WHAT LANGUAGE IS SPOKEN AT HOME?

English pretty much. And my mom and dad helped me learn it. Most of all my dad helps me in English.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO TRANSLATE?

No.

NO?

Well, to my mom once.

DID YOU LIKE TRANSLATING?

NO, I don't like translating.

HOW DOES YOUR FAMILY STAY IN TOUCH WITH BOSNIAN CULTURE? HOW DO YOU STAY IN TOUCH WITH BOSNIA?

They call.

THEY CALL BOSNIA?

You asked me that earlier.

WELL, HOW DID YOUR FAMILY BECOME MORE AMERICAN?

I don't know. Pass.

DO, DOES YOUR FAMILY WATCH AMERICAN TV?

Yeah. All the time.

DO THEY LISTEN TO AMERICAN MUSIC?

Sometimes.

YOUR FAMILY SPEAKS ENGLISH?

Yes.

DO THEY WATCH AMERICAN MOVIES?

yeah.

DOES YOUR FAMILY STILL LISTEN TO BOSNIAN MUSIC?

Yep. Cause there's like, on Saturdays sometimes, well, yeah, on like almost every Saturday there is this one like Bosnia (inaud) whatever, and they play music and we dance and stuff.

BOSNIAN PARTY.

Yeah. It's like for everybody to come. All the people (inaud).

WHERE?

I don't know. It's, uh, this one restaurant where they like (inaud) every Saturday. And then a singer comes, either a famous singer or (inaud) they do something last Saturday.

FROM BOSNIA OR BOSNIA, A FAMOUS BOSNIAN SINGER?

Yeah. Yeah.

SATURDAY. IS IT DOWN TOWN?

No. It's close to... You know, that McDonalds, um, close to Van Dorn(?) or whatever, um, let me see...

SO IT'S BY THE MCDONALDS ON VAN DORN?

Kinda, cause it's close by there. Um,...

WHAT DO YOU GUYS DO THERE?

We just dance. And listen to music and like you can drink(?).

DO YOU EAT BOSNIAN FOOD?

(pause)

IT'S AMERICAN FOOD?

(pause)

WHAT ABOUT THE DANCE? ARE THEY TRADITIONAL BOSNIAN DANCES?

(smile) There is one.

THERE IS ONE? (SMILE) WHY DO YOU LAUGH WHEN YOU SAY THAT?

Because. (smile) No, it's just that there is one. And it's weird.

IT'S WEIRD?! NO, WHAT MAKES IT WEIRD?

I don't know. (smile) I'm not telling. I won't tell you. No, but, but people dance there like they dance here. Like, you know, how people dance here and stuff like that. Yeah, but there is just some things are different. (laugh)

WHAT'S SOMETHING THAT'S DIFFERENT? (SMILE)

Nothing. (laugh)

SO, SO YOU GUYS SING AND DANCE AND EAT FOOD AND SOCIALIZE? WHAT, WHAT LANGUAGE DO YOU SPEAK WHEN YOU'RE THERE?

Well, what I find, like I'll talk (inaud) like with the older people we talk our language.

BOSNIAN?  
(pause)

DO YOU GUYS EVER TALK ABOUT GOING TO BOSNIA?

At the party? No.

NO? YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT BOSNIA AT ALL WHILE YOU'RE THERE?

(pause) like stuff. Like...

BOYS?  
(inaud)

IF YOUR COUSINS WERE TO COME OVER HERE, WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM ABOUT AMERICA TO HELP THEM BECOME MORE AMERICAN?

Things that I learned.

WHAT'S THAT?  
Like math, English...

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM ABOUT MATH AND ENGLISH?

I don't know. I would just, (smile) just stuff. I don't know. (smile)

YOU WOULD TEACH THEM STUFF?

Yeah. And my cousin, she's, um, 12 years old, as me, but she's in sixth grade. Cause in Bosnia, when I was in first grade, we left half of the year and we went to Oregon for the second half of the year, and I was in second, I started second grade.

YOU WENT TO OREGON FOR A HALF A YEAR?

Yeah, I was in second grade. And then I started here third grade.

OH, OK.

And that's how I'm in (inaud) grade.

WHAT WAS OREGON LIKE. DID YOU LIKE IT?

Yeah. Cause I had no snow.

IT SNOWS IN OREGON.

No it doesn't. I was there.

IT DOESN'T?

It didn't snow and it was very, it was very, very cool outside. But it didn't snow.

OK, MIRELA, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SAY?

Nope.

OK, THANKS FOR INTERVIEWING.